

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Green Acres Community Center

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and welcome**

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair member Alice Lippert at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is listed below.

Type	Name	Attendance
Member, Chair	Adam Basinger	Absent
Member	Mark Chandler	Present
Member	Susan Crate	Absent
Member	Judy Fraser	Present
Member	Timothy Killian	Present
Member	Bruce Knight	Absent
Member	Michael Lee	Present
Member, Vice Chair	Alice Lippert	Present
Member	Toby Sorensen	Present
High School Liaison	Katie Lau	Present
Staff	Stefanie Kupka	Present
Staff	Paul Nabti	Present
Staff	Jason Sutphin	Present
Guest	Phillip Latasa	Present
Guest	Pete Naka	Present
Guest	David Meyer	Present

**2. Consideration of the October 3, 2018 meeting minutes**

Judy moved to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Tim and carried unanimously.

**3. ESC Development Review Discussion**

Staff provided the ESC with a draft version of a revised ESC development review process for their review. The ESC discussed the revised development review process and provided feedback to staff.

**4. ESC Subcommittee Update**

Each subcommittee provided an update on their progress. The subcommittees will continue preparing for the work session with the Mayor and City Council.

- **Tree Management:** Judy, Mark and Toby

The subcommittee noted that there are many benefits of having an Urban Forester position. They are supportive of the City creating a full-time Urban Forester position. If hired, the Urban Forester would be supporting multiple departments.

- **Energy Conservation and Renewables:** Alice, Susie and Bruce

The subcommittee put together a 2 phase approach:

1. **Conduct community-wide energy education and outreach**

They will work with staff to put together a communication plan (CityScene, website, videos, etc). Some of the topic ideas for upcoming videos include Arbor Day, invasive plants and Solarize NOVA.

2. **Review and recommend policies that encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and green programs for commercial property and/or business owners in the City**

Partner with the City's Economic Development Authority and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. Use "off the shelf" tools/data to assess energy usage.

- **Solid Waste and Recycling:** Tim and Michael

One of the actions the subcommittee supports is the development of a formal green purchasing policy. They are also supportive of the City creating a part-time Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator position. They also recommend conducting additional education on composting (how to use the compost center and how to compost in your backyard).

## 5. **Comprehensive Plan Update**

A Planning Commission work session on the current draft of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan was held on November 26. A public hearing on the final draft is scheduled for Monday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Annex, Room 100. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, staff will present the Planning Commission's recommendation on the Comprehensive Plan to the City Council. A work session and public hearing will be held with the council in early 2019. The current draft can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/livablefairfax>. All are welcome to attend the public meetings to share thoughts on the plan or send an e-mail to [ComprehensivePlan@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:ComprehensivePlan@fairfaxva.gov).

The committee discussed potentially requesting to add a tree canopy target in the Comprehensive Plan. They noted that the City is at risk of losing more tree canopy due to redevelopment.

## **6. Invasive Plant Management**

Katie Lau informed the committee that she will be taking on a volunteer project with NVSWCD to remove invasive plant species around Daniels Run. She plans to work with various organizations, such as Friends of Accotink Creek and the Lands and Water program. She requested support from the ESC with her upcoming project.

Phillip Latasa, from Friends of the Accotink Creek organization provided an update on some of the support they will be providing for Katie's project. He also informed the ESC that the Friends of Accotink Creek will be organizing stream clean-up efforts at 4 spots in the City of Fairfax next year (Thaiss Park, Rebel Run Park, Accotink and Old Lee Hwy, University Drive crosses Accotink Creek). The Friends of the Accotink Creek organization meets the third Tuesday of each month at Audrey Moore Rec Center.

## **7. Chairperson's Items**

- ESC Annual Report – The committee will begin working on their 2018 annual report.
- Mayor and City Council Work Session – The committee requested to schedule a work session with the Mayor and City Council on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Work session will cover the committee's VML Green Government Challenge recommendations and 2018 ESC Annual Report.

## **8. Committee Items**

Judy – She noted that it's time to start preparing for the 2019 Arbor Day event. The tree subcommittee plans to prepare a draft of the tree commission's responsibilities for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Katie – She noted that the Green Club meetings are held after school on Thursday. Katie recommends adding a second afternoon bus for Monday nights so that students can participate in more than one activity if they don't have other transportation options.

## **9. Staff items**

- Pilot Composting Center: The Composting Center has been very popular with residents since it opened in October. The pilot is off to a good start with plenty of participation and very little contamination.
- FY19 ESC budget: Staff reminded the committee that they have approximately \$2,000 of funding to spend by the end of the fiscal year.
- SolSmart: A cohort of eight Virginia municipalities (including City of Fairfax) were selected to receive a SolSmart Advisor. The SolSmart Advisor will start in January and will provide technical support to the cohort for a period of six months.
- Viridiant Presentation: Viridiant has offered to present information to the ESC about their regional green building program. The committee agreed to invite them to an upcoming meeting.

## **10. Public comments**

- Pete Noka: He noted that climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing society today. He is looking to take on a community wide project to help combat climate change. One of his ideas is to form a public/private partnership to fund an on-site solar project in the City of Fairfax.

## **11. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next regular ESC meeting is January 2nd, 2018 @ 7 p.m.

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